

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01

/085 W

----- 129685

R 230540Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6782

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCEUR

EUEEC STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3257

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FR, SA, YE

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARMS FOR YAR

REF: PARIS 30238

1. WE NOTE PARA 5 REFTEL STATES FRENCH HAVE IMPRESSION  
SAUDIS "APPEAR ANXIOUS TO HAVE SANA CHANGE ITS  
MILITARY SUPPLIER FROM USSR TO EUROPE (OR THE US).

2. ON NOVEMBER 18 PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI TOLD ME THAT  
YARG STRONGLY PREFERS TO HAVE US BECOME MAJOR AND  
PREFERABLY SOLE, SUPPLIER OF ARMS TO BE FINANCED BY THE SAUDIS.  
AL-HAMDI STATED THAT SAUDIS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN  
SUGGESTING THAT UK AND FRANCE ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
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MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOR YEMENI ARMS. HAMDI

SAID THAT YEMEN WILL, OF COURSE, DEFER TO SAUDIS IN THIS REGARD. HAMDI CONTINUED THAT PROBLEM WITH FRANCH AND BRITISH HOWEVER, IS THAT THEY CONSIDER ARMS SALES AS STRICTLY COMMERCIAL DEALS AND DO NOT APPROACH THEM IN THE OVERALL LONG-TERM WAY OF THE AMERICANS WITH REGARD TO TRAINING, MAINTENANCE, AND SPARE PARTS SUPPLY. HAMDI REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES HIS PREFERENCE FOR THE AMERICANS FOR THIS REASON.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN HEARING FROM THE UK AMBASSADOR HERE THAT "IMPORTANT FIGURES" IN JIDDA HAVE BEEN TRYING TO INVOLVE BRITISH IN THE YEMEN ARMS PROGRAM BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION AS TO WHO THEY WERE. AMBASSADOR CARDEN HAS ASSURED ME THAT HE HAS COUNSELLED HIS GOVERNMENT TO HOLD OFF MAKING ANY COMMITMENT TO SAUDIS LEST SUCH A COMMITMENT BE A SAUDI PLOY TO DELAY FURTHER MODERNIZATION PLANS FOR THE YEMENI ARMY. IN ANY EVENT HAMDI CERTAINLY WAS EMPHATIC WITH ME ABOUT HIS PREFERENCES BUT, OF COURSE, THE OLD SAYING "WHO PAYS THE PIPER CALLS THE TUNE" MAY BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE IN THIS INSTANCE. FROM WHAT WE CAN TELL THE REGIONAL FRENCH AND BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHES ARE CERTAINLY PREPARED TO HELP THE PIPER PICK HIS TUNE, IF GIVEN A CHANCE.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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